

AMIAA NEWS

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AMAA News

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FRONT COVER PICTURE:

Armenian Martyrs' Monument, Montebello, CA
Inset: (L to R) Harold DeMirjian, Dikran
Youmshakian (AMAA Field Director) and Rev.
Joe Matossian (Minister to the Union) pictured
with the wreath placed on behalf of the Armenian
Evangelical Churches - April 24, 2008

Blessed Assurance

Andrew Torigian

"I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Revelation 21:22-27).

For those of us who believe, serving a risen Savior without having seen Him is a true act of faith. In John 20:29 Jesus said "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." But will believing alone give us assurance that as we work together in our ministry we are secure that some day we will be with our Savior? The answer is an emphatic "Yes"! There is nothing we can do to earn our place in that glorious city of God. If we could earn it, it would have made no sense for Christ to suffer and die as He did. He did it because there was no other way.

This is why the Gospel is the Good News. It is good news indeed. It is because of what He accomplished in His death and resurrection that we can have eternal life. It is because He lives that we can live for eternity in that blessed place with Him. This is what the Armenians during the Genocide had to look forward to. No matter what man could do to their flesh, their soul was secure in the Lord. We must simply accept Him as Lord and Savior and align our lives with Him. This is what makes it a joy to follow Him and not a burden. This is what makes it a joy to then "give back" in some way to Him by helping His work on earth. It is not because it gains us access to Heaven, but it is because He has freely given us access to Heaven.

Now, as we take time to remember the Armenian Genocide and the faith that sustained the Armenian nation, let us share this Good News with others, wherever we are. It is a joy and peace that is available to everyone. People need to know that anyone can be "written in the Lamb's book of life" and one day live in that eternal city of God. □

Save The Date

**89th Annual Meeting and related activities of the
Armenian Missionary Association of America
Celebrating
90 Years of Miracles**

**Oct. 17-19, 2008
in Paramus, NJ**

Details will follow

The 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Republic

Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian*

The year 2008 is the 90th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia. On May 28, 1918, the independent Republic came into existence amidst the most trying conditions. Three years after the Turkish Genocide of the Armenians, in May, 1918, the Armenians in their homeland were once again threatened by their enemies. The Turkish forces had encircled the region of Yerevan and intended to destroy the Armenian Remnant. Surrounded by mortal foes, with no avenue of escape and no one around to extend a helping hand, Armenians of every age and rank, including women and the very old took a heroic stand. At the battles of Sardarabad, Kara-Kilisa and Bash-Abaran, the little Armenian force of about 35,000 fought against the Turkish army and triumphed. These triple battles of May 1918, led to the establishment of the Republic of Armenia in a small part of our historic Fatherland. If these three battles, particularly that of Sardarabad, had not been won, it is almost certain that the remaining Armenians in the Caucasus would have been murdered by the invading genocidal Turkish armies. Had the Turks broken the Armenian army they would have finished the rest of the Armenian people in that part of the world.

The Armenian folk who survived because of their heroic valor later became the citizen nucleus of the Republic of Armenia and still later constituted the population of present-day Armenia.

Much like the proverbial phoenix rising from its ashes, the victorious Armenian people proclaimed the independence of Armenia on May 28, 1918. Six hundred years after the fall of the last independent Armenian kingdom we had conquered a land for ourselves!

The creation of the Republic, born out of the threat of annihilation, was a miracle. It was our only haven in the sea of despair. Preserving the infant Republic was an even greater challenge. The economic conditions within the country were catastrophic. Famine and privation, cholera and typhus epidemics, the presence of enemy armed bands who attacked the Armenian populace were devastating. World War I continued for another five months and the future of the Armenian state remained uncertain until the Armistice and the surrender of Turkey to the Allies. Armenians breathed a sigh of relief in November 1918. With the defeat of Turkey, the Allied nations demanded the Ottoman troops to withdraw from some of their occupied Armenian territories. As a result the Kars, Ardahan and Nakhichevan territories were added to the Republic.

The territory of independent Armenia was considerably larger than that of the present-day Republic of Armenia. But in spite of the fact that its economy was a shambles, half its population scattered, the Armenian government did the best it could for its people. For two and a half years, Armenians clung

to their independence and built a whole new infrastructure, a university, institutes and schools, with industries budding here and there. With great hopes they sent their representatives to the Paris Peace Conference and presented their demands for a united Armenia that encompassed Western Armenian territories as well. In August 1920, the Treaty of Peace with Turkey, signed at Sèvres (France), recognized the independence of Armenia and its right to Western Armenia. Woodrow Wilson, the President of the United States of America, drew the borders of Armenia – a country with an area of around 87,500 square miles (227,500 square kilometers). Unfortunately, the signatories of the Treaty of Sèvres had disagreements with one another. Meanwhile, in Turkey a new leader came forth in the person of Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk), who launched a new Turkish national movement, organized the army and was chosen president of the newly formed parliament. He made an agreement with socialist Russia and challenged the disunited Allies.

Thereafter, the Turks and the Soviet Russians put pressure on little Armenia to renounce the Treaty of Sèvres. Armenia was caught between the Turkish anvil and the Russian hammer. The Turks tried to gain control of the Karabagh – Zanzezour – Nakhichevan belt and unite with Azerbaijan; they attacked Armenia without any provocation. Meanwhile, the Armenian Socialists, with seventy thousand Russian soldiers, entered and occupied the northern Armenian city of Dilijan.

The Armenian government asked the Socialist government of Russia to stop the Turkish advance but the Russians considered friendly relations with the Turks more important than the security of an insignificant Armenia. They suggested that the Armenians accept the Turkish conditions. On November 29, 1920, the Armenian Republic fell under the Socialists' dominion. Armenia signed the Treaty of Alexandropol, making huge territorial concessions to the Turks.

In December 1920, a socialist system was set up in Armenia, and in 1921, the peoples of the Caucasus united to form the Transcaucasian Federated Republic, subject to Socialist Russia. With the new Soviet Constitution in 1936, each nation of the Caucasus formed a part of the Soviet Union as separate republics.

Under the aegis of the Soviet Union, the Second Republic lasted from 1920 to 1991. Despite the dictatorial political system and violation of human rights, the people of Armenia developed their economy and culture. With Soviet assistance great industrial advances occurred. Along with economy and industry, great impetus was also given to the educational, scientific and artistic areas. Illiteracy was almost completely eliminated.

Soviet Armenia became a highly advanced and industrialized republic and major center for the development of Armenian arts and culture and maintained for more than 70 years the continuity of the Armenian state.

With the decline of the USSR, Soviet Armenia was one of the first republics to declare independence. After a national referendum, 95.6% of over two million eligible voters overwhelmingly voted for independence on September 21, 1991. Thus, the Third Republic burst forth.

The Third Republic, present-day Armenia, is just a tiny part of the historic Armenia. It covers 29,800 square kilometers, or 11,506 square miles. It represents only one-sixth of the Armenian territories delineated by the Treaty of Sèvres. Its current population is estimated 3.5 million.

Considering the challenges that Armenia has faced since the creation of the Third Republic, the fact that it survived all the odds against it, is itself a miracle. After its devastating 1988 earthquake, the country was hardly prepared for the moment of destiny when it declared its independence. It was subjected to Turkish-Azeri attacks and an economic blockade.

During the past sixteen years, the Republic has made every effort to consolidate its independence. Full membership is attained in international forums. Economic reforms are made to ensure smooth transition from the old system to a free market economy. Land reforms are made. The government has been working hard toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Nagorno Karabagh and the establishment of friendly relations with all its neighbors.

On the other hand, however, there are some concerns about the free and democratic process in elections. There is corruption in the government. There is an increase in disparity on economic and social levels. There is also an exodus of Armenians from Armenia because of the aforementioned and other problems.

But despite all of these difficulties, the Republic of Armenia has grown and prospered during the past 16 years and has become the actualization of the dream that a people without a land and a land without a people would be reunited.

The Republic of Armenia, with all its faults and foibles,

has given Armenians all over the world the pride of national identity, that they are a people with a country and have a national flag which readily identifies them and with which they are identified. And as someone once said, "Armenianism and pessimism are not compatible." This has been our strength and our salvation, that we have lived with hope.

This hope endured even during centuries in which Armenian history was the saga of Armenian endurance and suffering. Now the older chapter of passivity has ended, and the new chapter of creativity has begun. We can no longer be called "Starving Armenians" or "Wandering Armenians." We are no longer "a homeless people" or "a captive nation," but a nation in control of its destiny.

Armenia is our beacon of hope because it is the best guarantee of our survival as a nationality. It is the irreplaceable base upon which our future can be built, especially when we consider the fact that the Diaspora faces a down hill struggle in the preservation of the national character as new generations come along.

For Armenians, the Republic of Armenia is a dream come true, a prayer answered and a faith renewed. It is the indomitable will of an undying people inspired by its divine assurance. It is a land made fertile by the work and sweat and hope of men and women, standing together in the valley with the Prophet Ezekiel and seeing the dry bones come to life.

Yes, the Republic of Armenia is 90 years old. Our ancestors pledged themselves never to forget the land of their inspiration, and we once more renew the ancient pledge.

We pray that God will protect the Republic of Armenia and keep our people filled with grace and reinforced with faith to live and work for the love and well being of our homeland. □

** Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian is the Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council.*

Spiritual Corner

God Is On Our Side

Romans 8

by Dikran Youmshakian

Romans chapter 8 describes the victorious life Christians can enjoy through Christ who loves us. Victorious, not only in times of trials of persecution and death, but also in trials of comfort and extravagant life. We should feel victorious because "God works in all things for the good of His children" (v. 28).

Persecuted Christians throughout history were able to hold on to their faith with the assurance that God was on their side. Armenian Martyrs of the Genocide were not different. Thanks to their firm faith in God they were victorious. We are their survivors. God was on our side.

Do we feel God on our side today as we enjoy much more of society's comforts, while others continue to experience hardships? This is another kind of trial that the Apostle refers to - the trial of a comfortable life, which can easily turn to selfish joy. Do we forget the trials of the past at the cost of ignoring the needs of others?

God is always on our side and at all times. Are we on His side? Our victories can easily turn to defeat if we ignore God's plan and purpose for our lives and forget to share the harvest with others in need. □



Talin is a mid-sized city 40 miles northwest of Yerevan, located in the Arakazodny Region. Before Armenia's independence, Talin's population was 12,000. Due to massive emigration since independence, the current population is estimated at 7,000.

During the communist era, Talin had four large factories that together employed 1,500 people. In addition, many people worked in agriculture. Talin has 1,200 hectares of land that can be cultivated for produce. Today, however, only 50% of it is farmed due to lack of water.

Massive unemployment has caused many families to leave Talin to seek employment elsewhere, mostly in Russia.

The AMAA started its ministries in Talin during May 1998, at the invitation of the Mayor and the local Apostolic Priest (Der Hovhanness). The Mayor provided AMAA with office space in the City Hall.

The AMAA responded by appointing Mr. Armen Mikaelian to begin the Talin ministries by establishing an office, humanitarian programs, and a Christian Education (CE) ministry for children and youth.

The ministries started with a Day Camp for 150 children in School #2, during August 1998. A month later, CE ministries for children and youth were started at the same school. Later in the year, CE ministries were also started in School #1 and at the local high school.

During October 1999, the ministry was moved to its current location, the buildings of Kindergarten #3.

Adult ministries began in February 2000. The beginnings were very humble. A few interested people would gather for Bible study and prayer at the AMAA office in the City Hall. The group slowly evolved into a small, yet growing congregation. Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA)

worship services officially began on February 11, 2000. A congregation of 75 meets on Sundays.

Soon after establishing the Talin ministries, the team under the leadership of Mr. Mikaelian started ministries in nearby towns and villages of the Arakazodny Region: Artenei, Arakadzavan, Abaran, Nerkin Talin, and Ashtarak, the region's capitol.

The ECA, in cooperation with the AMAA, has a rapidly growing congregation and active Christian Education ministries in the Arakazodny Region.

Furthermore, AMAA staff and volunteers carry out several humanitarian ministries, including a Child Sponsorship program and a Kindergarten.

A team of 15 staff and over 30 volunteers, reach out to 600 children, youth, and young adults in five towns and villages in the region.

The Christian Education program of Talin holds Bible teaching ministries for children and youth. Here, the children hear Bible stories presented through various creative methods and tools (e.g. puppet theater, flannel graphs, drama, etc.), and learn how to apply the Bible to their daily lives. In addition, the children learn and sing children's Gospel songs, pray, memorize scripture, and play games. The youth programs include additional elements, such as group discussions, role-plays, dramas, and debates on issues they deal with in their lives.

Through its Christian Education program, ECA-Talin provides the following free services to children and youth:

- Academic services: English language and physics classes.
- Art instruction: Painting, needlework, music, and arts & crafts classes.
- Sports ministry: Soccer team.
- Performing arts: children's choir and theater group.

The AMAA also owns and operates a Kindergarten in Talin. The students receive a good education and daily meals.

Being the most experienced, the Talin CE team leads the ministries in the nearby towns of Artenei, Arakazavan, Nerkin Talin, Ashtarak and Abaran

Talin is an area of Armenia where the AMAA continues to make a difference in the lives of the people. □



AMAA Sunday at the Armenian Martyrs' Cong'l church (AMCC) in Havertown, PA

Ruth Melian



Andy Torigian delivering his message at AMCC



Rev. Nishan Bakalian, pastor of AMCC

Sunday, March 9, which was designated as Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Sunday, found our church without power and very cold due to a harsh storm. Vicken Keshishian saved the day by rounding up some propane heaters to warm the fellowship hall where we held our worship service.

Andrew Torigian, Executive Director of AMAA, delivered an inspiring English sermon. He said that a man who has put his focus on the Lord is like a tree which bears much fruit. We can draw upon the power of our spiritual life and the blood of Jesus Christ who cleanses us. Mr. Torigian also remarked that being without electricity helps us to identify with many in the Near East and Armenia who are regularly in the same situation.

After our worship service and a light lunch, Mr. Torigian spoke about many vital services the AMAA performs throughout the world. This year, AMAA celebrates 90 years of service and now supports 140 projects.

Unfortunately, without power in the church, we could not see the film, which showed many of these services.

Mr. Torigian spoke about the beginnings of AMAA in 1918, when Armenian Evangelicals got together to form a missionary organization that would preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and heal the wounds of their compatriots suffering in the homeland. This offered the churches an opportunity to go out of their circle and touch the lives of many disadvantaged people in this country and abroad and demonstrate the reality of God's love.

AMAA has built schools, helped heal the sick, feed the hungry, helped support orphans and widows, and has given scholarships for pastoral education. They have sent annually 1,200 children to Christian schools in Lebanon. AMAA now serves Armenians in 22 countries.

Mr. Torigian thanked *Badveli* and his wife, Maria for the mission work they have done for the past seven years in Haigazian University in Beirut. AMAA supports Haigazian and the churches' social and welfare center.

AMAA is very active in Armenia and now sends over 11,000 children to 55 summer camp sessions. For many, a summer camp program is the first time a child hears about the Lord. AMAA also has 2,800 children and their families on their child sponsorship program.

AMCC has always been an active supporter of the mission of AMAA. As we warmed our bodies, many hearts were warmed to the needs of the AMAA and the great work it is doing for the glory of God. ☐

The Executive Director with the Missions Committee of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, Pennsylvania. L to R: Daniel Babaian, Andy Torigian, Maria and Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Lucille Tashjian, Pauline Karjian, Cynthia Hamill, Diane DeMirjian (Chair) and Vicken Keshishian. ➡

AMAA Sunday at the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA

Alice Terian



(Front row L to R) Arsene Euredjian, Henry Abadian, Gilda Melkonian Sirvart Ketenjian, Anahis Derian, Rev. Kevork Terian, Margaret Yardumian, Nerses Aroyan. (Back row L to R) Alice Terian, Andrew Torigian, Sirvart Hintlian and Lydia Ishkhanian

The Cilicia Armenian Evangelical Church (ACEC) of Pasadena designated March 2, as AMAA Sunday. We were privileged to have Mr. Andrew Torigian, the Executive Director of the AMAA as our guest speaker. Mr. Torigian brought us a heart-warming message at our 11:00 am worship hour.

Following the church service, we had a luncheon organized by the Missions and Outreach Committee. Around 65 individuals were present. After explaining the major projects that AMAA had accomplished during the year 2007, Mr. Torigian showed a video about the orphaned children in Armenia and how the AMAA cares for them by meeting their most urgent physical, educational and spiritual needs.

Two of the church members, Anahis Derian and Sirvart Hintlian, who are generous contributors to AMAA sponsored projects, were recognized.

Promoting AMAA and its mission is one of the ways the Missions and Outreach Committee of ACEC serves the Lord. On behalf of ACEC, we want to thank Mr. Torigian and the board of the AMAA for their dedicated services to Christ. ☐



Andy Torigian delivering his message at ACEC



First Armenian Church Celebrates AMAA Sunday

March is AMAA Month. Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide celebrate the service ministries of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). This year's celebration is very special, as the year 2008 marks the 90th Anniversary of the AMAA.

Sunday, February 24 was reserved for AMAA at the First Armenian Evangelical Church (FAC) of Belmont, MA. AMAA Field Director, Mr. Dikran Youmshakian joined the congregation preaching and reporting on AMAA activities. Both he and the pastor of the church, Rev. Greg Haroutunian, gave inspiring sermons on compassion and sacrificial giving.

After the worship service, the congregation held a magnificent banquet in Nahigian Hall. Along with a wonderful lunch, there was a musical performance by young artists from the church, Kirk Gulezian on piano, Sammy Andonian on cello and Alexander Andonian on violin with Jennifer Andonian accompanying on piano.

Mrs. Silva Khoshafian and Mrs. Karen Kazarosian shared some letters received from sponsored children in Armenia. Mr. Vartan Getzoyan, who had recently visited the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Abovian, displayed pictures of the church. The FAC congregation had accepted AMAA's call and had established a sister church relationship with that church. Rev. Haroutunian presented a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 on behalf of FAC to help the Abovian Church with their needs. The gift was received in appreciation. Mr. Youmshakian showed a DVD on the ministries of AMAA in the Middle East. Speaking mostly on the needs of Armenian communities in



Lebanon and Syria, he challenged those present to extend their support. Mrs. Michele Simourian, who is the founding co-chair of the AMAA's Orphan & Child Care Committee, made a touching appeal on behalf of needy children. Responding to his call, 20 children were sponsored.

The AMAA appreciates the partnership of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in North America and especially the church in Belmont. The church and its Mission Committee headed by Mrs. Lucine Poindexter have been very active in their fundraising for AMAA ministries. □



AMAA Field Director Dikran Youmshakian & Rev. Greg Haroutunian

Mission Partners Meet

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has been blessed throughout the years with loyal, dedicated and hard-working mission partners. One of these mission partners of the AMAA is the United Church of Christ/Wider Church Ministries (UCC/WCM). Together the AMAA and the UCC/WCM have been supporting the Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia and the church and educational needs of Lebanon and Syria. The benefits to both these countries have been outstanding.

The AMAA and UCC/WCM usually meet once a year at one of their headquarters. This year the meeting was held at the UCC/WCM Headquarters in Cleveland. □



L to R: Peter Makari, Ph. D. (Executive, Middle East and Europe); Reverend Cally Rogers-Witte (Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries); Andrew Torigian (AMAA Executive Director); Mrs. Ann Kiernozek (Treasurer, Wider Church Ministries) and on the telephone were H. Steven Aharonian, M.D. (AMAA President) and Albert Momjian, Esq. (AMAA Board Member and Solicitor).

AMAA Sunday at the United Armenian Congregational Church

The United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA observed the AMAA Sunday on March 9.

During the Sunday worship service AMAA Field Director Mr. Dikran Youmshakian gave the English Sermon talking about fasting in a way that is pleasing to God (Isaiah 59). Many AMAA board members were present at the worship service.

Following the service, the Missions Committee of the church organized a banquet. Missions Committee Chairperson, Mrs. Grace Kurkjian welcomed the guests and thanked the congregation for their support of the AMAA.

There was musical entertainment after which a video on AMAA mission in the Middle East was shown. The highlight of the video was the financial support AMAA provides to the educational needs of Armenian communities in Lebanon and Syria.

Eleven Armenian Evangelical schools serve the community in Lebanon and Syria, in addition to Haigazian University, which is the only institution of higher education in the Diaspora. About 1400 students attend Armenian Evangelical schools and most of them need financial aid. Haigazian University has a record number of 800 students.

During his presentation, Mr. Youmshakian challenged those present to support as many students that they can. Many students were sponsored. The Field Director also thanked the church for their support of the Armenian Evangelical Shamlian Tatigian School of Lebanon. □



AMAA Sunday luncheon at the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC) of Hollywood, CA (above). Mrs. Gracy Kurkjian, UACC Missions Committee chairperson welcoming the guests and thanking the congregations for their support to the AMAA.



AMAA Sunday at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh (Beirut, Lebanon)

The second Sunday of March 2008 was special at the church because of its dedication to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and its worldwide ministries.

Participants of the worship service included Mr. Elias Jabbour of Aleppo (a senior student at the Near East School of Theology) who led the singing and the prayers, and Mr. Garbis Deyirmenjian (Church elder) who read the scriptures and shared a story relevant to the theme of missions. Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian extensively reflected on the founding, development and multi-faceted outreach of the AMAA, then called upon those present in the service to support the AMAA through their prayers and generous giving.

The pastor of the church, Rev. Soghomon Kilaghbian, offered the pastoral prayer, and asked God to bless those leading the AMAA, the supporters, the employees and the service they are rendering for the Lord. Rev. Kilaghbian's sermon of the day was based on Luke 22:27 which focused on serving others. He concluded by saying that the greatness of the AMAA is not in the worldly credit it may enjoy, nor in its huge budget, but in the fact that it follows the good example of the Lord Jesus Christ, an example of real service to the people for the sake of their salvation.

The service was concluded by singing the *Hayr Mer* (Lord's Prayer) and the apostolic blessing of the pastor of the church. A reception followed. □

Meet Our Staff...

Mrs. Jayne Johnson, Executive Secretary to the Executive Director, is always ready to use her strong administrative, stenographic, and typing skills for the staff and Board members. She provides much-needed support to the Executive Director and management. She performs an integral role in ensuring coordination of Board and committee meetings, including compilation of the minutes.

Mrs. Johnson, born in Bay Ridge, New York, has been employed in the secretarial field for over 40 years, the last nine years with the AMAA headquarters. Prior to working for the AMAA, she worked for 7 years at Taihan Sugar; a South Korean sugar refinery and also commodity trader of sugar on the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange; performing administrative, secretarial and simple bookkeeping tasks.



Armenian Evangelical “Armiss” Art School



Under the patronage of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church and in cooperation with the Armenian Evangelical Educational Council of Syria, the Armenian Evangelical “Armiss” art school was established in Aleppo-Syria in October 2006. The school was named ARMISS and located at the Armenian

Evangelical Bethel Church Campus. The main purpose of this center is to help children to discover and expand their musical talents, and enhance their performance skills. The director of the school is Mrs. Shoghagat Apartian Selimian and works with a highly qualified teaching staff. The art school includes two sections - The Conservatory and the Children's Choir. The Armenian Evangelical “Armiss” art school presented its first annual recital, on Friday June 22, 2007, at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church's Soghomonian Hall. Rev. Haroutune Selimian warmly welcomed the capacity audience and invited the Director of the School, Mrs. Selimian to give brief information about the school. During the recital 30 students manifested their talents and musical abilities to the audience by presenting musical pieces on piano, guitar and violin. The recital made a tremendous impression on the audience with its successful performances, and it was one of the major musical events of the year. □



AMAA Library and Armenian Evangelical Archives

At the headquarters of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) in Paramus, NJ a library and archives room exists containing the main research materials of the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical Church. Much of the material is hard to find elsewhere and provides a rich history of the church worldwide.

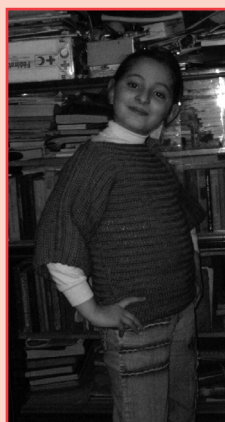
The materials are organized and displayed in a manner to facilitate easy use. There is place available to work on the research that is WiFi enabled for anyone wishing to bring along their laptop computer.

Anyone is welcome during regular business hours. Please call ahead to reserve access. Come, visit us and experience the richness of Armenian Evangelical heritage at your fingertips. □



"Knitted" Together With Love

People from all over the country continue to knit sweaters for those in need all year long for Guideposts Outreach. The AMAA has benefited from all this hard work. Once again, Guideposts Outreach has graciously donated hundreds of these knitted sweaters to the AMAA for the needy children in Armenia. These sweaters are special to us because of the sacrifice made by many individuals in knitting them by hand. The warmth these children feel is two-fold: From the comfort of the sweater and from the love expressed by knitting them. We appreciate the enormous amount of time and effort of all these people and thank Guideposts Outreach for entrusting us to put them in the hands of those in need. □



AMAA Helps The Pyunic Wheelchair Basketball Team in Armenia



Pyunic Wheelchair Basketball Team in Yerevan, Armenia receives wheelchairs and equipment from the AMAA, New Jersey Nets and Wheelchair Sports Federation. Pictured L to R Sevak, Arkadik, Coach Eleanora, Arshak, Haik and Ashot.

The Pyunic Wheelchair Basketball Team of Yerevan just got some more game thanks to the AMAA. Pyunic, with no sports wheelchairs and lacking other basic equipment had asked for some help from the AMAA. They found it with a little support from the New Jersey Nets and the Wheelchair Sports Federation.

The NJ Nets donated T-Shirts & Hats and the Wheelchair Sports Federation donated 5 used basketballs, 3 used sports wheelchairs with extra tubes and tires as well as Wheelchair Basketball Instructional DVD's and a portable DVD player.

Since the NJ Nets already sponsor a Wheelchair Basketball Team in Hackensack NJ, they were aware of the needs of the disabled who want to reap the mental and health benefits of playing an adaptive sport. The Wheelchair Sports Federation is also dedicated to providing opportunities for the disabled to participate in adaptive sports and a few athletes donated their old sports wheelchairs and other equipment. Either in the United States or in Armenia, people with disabilities strive to lead normal lives and playing sports helps to keep them healthy as well as build self confidence.

Hakob Abrahamyan, President of the Armenian Association of Disabled NGO, appreciates the efforts made by the AMAA by noting: "The wheelchairs are a big help and the children are delighted that they have such opportunity. The instructions through the DVD are very helpful and our coach is watching them in order to train the kids accordingly."

The team was formed two years ago and is comprised of 10 individuals with disabilities that include amputees and those with spinal cord injuries. They practice and train once a week and look forward to using the new equipment to improve their skills.

Those wishing to assist the team or if you would like more information about how to help, please contact the AMAA at (201) 265-2607 or by e-mail at amaa@amaa.org. □

Robert Hekemian Sr. Bestowed with Elder Emeritus Title of APC

Every year on Palm Sunday the session of the the Armenian Presbyterian Church (APC) of Paramus chooses to honor one of its members. This year, the session chose to honor Mr. Robert Hekemian Sr. for his many years of sacrificial and dedicated work both in the church and community and bestowed upon him the title Elder Emeritus.

Over 270 people were in attendance. Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Pastor of APC, started the program by welcoming everyone and invited Mr. David Hekemian to say a few words about his father. David spoke about his father through a son's perspective. One thing extremely evident in his talk was that God's church meant a great deal to his father and how it played a major role in the life of his family.

Following David's talk, Rev. Gulleyan shared with the attendees how the church was truly blessed to have a person of Mr. Hekemian's caliber in the community. Then he invited Mr. Hekemian and, on behalf of the session and congregation, presented him with a plaque and bestowed upon him the honorary title of Elder Emeritus.

Mr. Hekemian shared his thoughts with the attendees about the past and the future of APC, as it celebrates it's 110th anniversary this year. He thanked God for the past and challenged the congregation to take risks for God, as it is necessary in order to bring about meaningful change, which will result in spiritual growth. "If taking risks for God and his Kingdom is a biblically accurate statement," he said, "then I call upon all of you to do your part, thereby ensuring that our church continues to evolve in the correct spiritual course and become the beacon of light in our community and the world."

In conclusion he thanked the pastor and the members of the session for selecting him to receive this prestigious title of ELDER EMERITUS. "I am honored and proud and will use the authority wisely" he said.

The program ended by the grandchildren handing roses to their grandfather.

Mr. Hekemian has been a past Vice President of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). He is the chairman of the AMAA Nominating Committee and the AMAA Personnel Committee. He serves on AMAA's Investment Committee, Near East Committee, Managers of Real Estate Properties Committee, Armenia Committee and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

AMAA joins in congratulating Mr. Hekemian for the service he gives to our community. □



The grandchildren of Robert Hekemian, Sr. handing roses to their grandfather.

BOOK SERVICE PROGRAM

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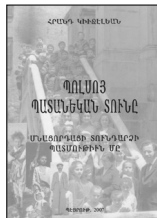
Hrant Güzelyan And Badanegan Doon

Only a few months before his death in 2007, Hrant Güzelyan, formerly of the Gedik Pasha church in Istanbul, was in Beirut, Lebanon, to speak at the joint commemoration of Armenian Martyrs' Day. His moving words, recalled the assassination of his dear friend and former student at the Badanegan Doon (or "Youth Home"), Hrant Dink, leading the audience to reflect on the challenges still facing the Armenian people as they continue to struggle for recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

And so it was fitting that immediately following the commemoration, in the Hassessian Hall of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Nor Marash, Hrant Güzelyan's new book (in Armenian), "Istanbul's Youth Home: A story of remnants returning home", was released at a special program. The book's editor, Dr. Yervant Kassouny, spoke of the importance of this work as a primary source of eyewitness information regarding the aftermath of the Genocide. He briefly described the topics of the book, including the "discovery" of Armenians being assimilated in the interior of Turkey, the creation of the Badanegan Doon, as well as Camp Armen, and their closure by the government. Güzelyan also spoke, and mentioned that there were many more experiences than what was in the book.

Alas, we will never know all of those stories, but at least we have this important document to remind us of what a few people in Turkey did in order to respond positively and creatively to the cruelty to which they were subjected. [L. Nishan Bakalian]

"Bolso Badanegan Doonuh" (2007 Beirut) paperback (in Armenian), 104 pp, with historic photographs - #329, \$20, plus s/h (to order fill out the form please).



ARMENIAN BIBLES • ՀԱՅԵՐԷՆ ԱՄՏՈՒԱԾԱԾՈՒՆԶԵՐ

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Զ Մարտ, 2008-ին, Կիրակի կէսօրէ ետք ժամը 5:00-ին, տեղի ունեցաւ ձեռնարկը, Universal Sheraton պանդոկի Roof Garden շքեղ սրահին մէջ: Ներկայ էին Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներու հովիւներ, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան ներկայացուցիչներ, պատուոյ հիւրեր, նախկին եւ ներկայ հոգաբարձուներ, ուսուցիչներ, շրջանաւարտներ, Տիկնանց Օժանդակ եւ Ծնողա-Ուսուցչաց Մարմիններու անդամներ, ծնողներ եւ բարեկամներ:

Կազմակերպիչ յանձնախումբի ատենապետուհի՝ Տիկ. Հելկա Սարգիս բարի գալուստ մաղթեց բոլորին եւ յատուկ շնորհակալութիւն յայտնեց իր գործակիցներուն: Օրուան հանդիսավարն էր Տօթթ. Նազարէթ Տարագճեան: Ան յիշեց 26 տարիներ առաջ, հիմնադրութեան օրերու հոգաբարձութեան առաջին ճաշկերոյթ ձեռնարկը, որուն ներկայ եղած էին Հայ Աւետարանական վարժարան մը հիմնելու տեսիլքը ունեցող հիմնադիրներ, որոնք գործադրելու համար իրենց ծրագիրը վայելած էին Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան (AMAA) մեծ ներդրումները ու Մերտինեան քոյրերու իշխանական նուիրատուութիւնը:

Վեր. Գեորգ Թէրեանի աղօթքէն ետք, Տօթթ. Տարագճեան առաջին հերթին հրաւիրեց Տօթթ. Հրայր Աթիքեանը, հոգաբարձութեան ատենապետը: Տօթթ. Աթիքեան ներկայացուց Պրն. Յակոբ Քէթէնճեանի պատրաստած նկարներու ցուցադրութիւնը մեծ պատաստներու վրայ, ապա բեմ հրաւիրեց 15 տարիներ կամ աւելի հոգաբարձական կազմին մէջ ծառայող անդամները.- Պրն. Գօգօ Պալեան, Տօթթ. Նազարէթ Տարագճեան, Պրն. Սէմիր Էքմէքճի, Պրն. Զաւէն Խանճեան, Պրն. Հրայր Մուրատեան, Պրն. Հրաչ Սարգիս: Իսկ յետ մահու՝ Տիկ. Ալիս Հայկի յուշատախտակը յանձնուեցաւ անոր ամուսնոյն՝ Տօթթ. Փիւր Հայկին:

Ձեռնարկի տեւողութեան խօսք առնողները բոլորն ալ մատնանշեցին Աւետարանական կրթական օճախներու տուած անսահման նպաստը հայ ժողովուրդին, աւելի քան 100 տարիներէ ի վեր: Այս առաքելութեան իրագործման մղիչ գլխաւոր ուժերն են անշուշտ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը (AMAA) եւ Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Միութիւնը (AEUNA): Որքան տեղին է կրկնել Տօթթ. Հրայր Ահարոնեանի խօսքը՝ «Կը դիմեմ ձեզի, ներկաներ, որ յաճախ յիշէք AMAA-ը նուիրատուութիւններով, հիմնադրամներ հաստատելով՝ ազգօգուտ ու Աստուածահաճոյ նպատակներու համար»:

Հայ Աւետարանական Դպրոցին կարելոր ներդրումը շեշտեց նաեւ օրուան գլխաւոր բանախօսը՝ Պրն. Փիւրը



Մերտինեան Վարժարանի Հոգաբարձութեան անդամներ որոնք 15 տարի եւ աւելի ծառայած են.- Սէմիր Էքմէքճի, Տօթթ. Նազարէթ Տարագճեան, Հրայր Մուրատեան, Հրաչ Սարգիս, Գօգօ Պալեան, Զաւէն Խանճեան, Տօթթ. Հրայր Պալեան եւ Տօթթ. Վահէ Փիւր Հայկ

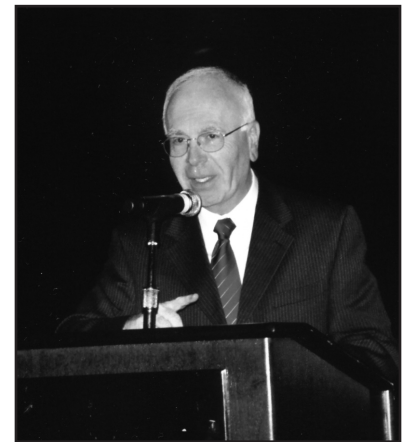
Ղուկասեան՝ AMAA-ի փոխ նախագահը, որ յիշեց թէ ինչպէս Խարբերդի Եփրատ Գոլէճին մէջ իր մեծ հօր ստացած ուսումն ու երաժշտական պատրաստութիւնը փոխանցուած էր իր հօրը, իրեն եւ այժմ իր զակին:

Վարժարանի տնօրէն՝ Պրն. Յովսէփ Ինճէ-ճիքեան, իր կարգին, շնորհակալութիւն յայտնեց ձեռնարկը յաջողցնող յանձնախումբին եւ զօրավիգ հանդիսացող նուիրատուներուն, ներկաներուն ու յատուկ յարգանքով յիշեց նուիրեալ հիմնադիրներէն մին՝ Տիկ. Ալիս Հայկը: Այնուհետեւ, ան ներկայացուց օրուան պատուոյ մեծարեալը՝ Տիկ. Աշխէն Իսթէնճեանը, որ 25 տարիներէ ի վեր անձնուիրաբար ծառայած է ու կը շարունակէ ծառայել Մերտինեան Վարժարանի մէջ նոյն թափով՝ որպէս Հայ Լեզուի ու Հայոց Պատմութեան դասատու: Տօթթ. Աթիքեան Տիկ. Իսթէնճեանին յանձնեց հոգաբարձութեան գնահատանքի յուշատախտակը, նաեւ նուէր մը՝ ոսկի ապարանջան՝ վրան իր ու դպրոցին անուններով:

Գեղարուեստական յայտագրին իր բաժինը բերաւ նաեւ Լարք Երաժշտանոցի Կանանց Երգչախումբը, ղեկավարութեամբ Պրն. Վաչէ Պարսումեանի, հայկական ժողովրդական երգերու փունջով մը:

Յայտագրին փակման խօսքը կատարեց Տօթթ. Տարագճեան, շնորհաւորելով մեծարեալները եւ գնահատելով ձեռնարկին յաջողութեան համար աշխատողները, ինչպէս նաեւ դպրոցին նոր ծրագիրներուն համար սրտաբուխ նուիրատուութիւն ընող բոլոր անհատները: Այս առթիւ գոյացաւ շուրջ 250 հազար տոլար:

Վեր. Բան Թովմասեանի աղօթքով վերջ գտաւ այս շքեղ հանդիսութիւնը: □



Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Նախագահ՝ Տօթթ. Հրայր Ահարոնեան կը խրախուսէ ներկաները որ շարունակեն նիւթապէս զօրավիգ կանգնիլ դպրոցին:

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL
ՀԱՅ ԱՒԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՄԱԵԽԱՐՀԱՅԻՆ ԽՈՐՀՈՒՐԴ
CONSEIL MONDIAL EVANGELIQUE ARMENIEN

... that they may be one (John 17:11) ... որպեսզի անոնք մեկ ըլլան (Յովհ. 17:11) ... afin qu'ils soient un (Jean 17:11)

30 Մարտ 2008

Մեծայարգ Տիար
 Սերժ Սարգսյան
 Նորընտիր Նախագահ Հայաստանի Հանրապետության
 Երեւան, Հայաստան

Յարգելի Տիար Նախագահ,

Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի անունով կը շնորհաւորենք Ձեզ՝ որպէս Նորընտիր Նախագահ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան:

Ուրախ ենք որ Երեւանի մէջ վերջին քանի մը շաբաթներուն տիրող տխուր իրադարձութիւններն ու անհանդարտ կացութիւնը արդէն սկսած են վերջ գտնել եւ լիայոյս ենք որ Ձեր ողջմտութիւնը, հեռատեսութիւնը, քաղաքական հասունութիւնն ու փորձառութիւնը մեծապէս պիտի նպաստեն մեր հայրենիքի ներքին անդորրութեան եւ քաղաքական-կազմակերպչական աշխատանքներու բարելաւման:

Սրտանց կը շնորհաւորենք Ձեզ եւ անգամ մը եւս մեր պատրաստակամութիւնը կը յայտնենք՝ զօրավիզ կանգնելու մեր հայրենիքին, անոր ներկայ դեկավարութեան եւ հայրենաբնակ մեր ժողովուրդին:

Ի խորոց սրտի կ'աղօթենք, որ Ամենակալ Աստուած երկար կեանք եւ քաջառողջութիւն շնորհէ Ձեզի, որպէս զի Նորանոր Նուաճումներով եւ օգտաշատ ծառայութիւններով ծաղկեցնէք մեր բոլորին սիրելի Հայաստանը:

Ձերոյ յարգանքներով եւ աղօթարար,

Վեր. Բան Թովմասեան

Վեր. Բան Թովմասեան
 Նախագահ

Վեր. Դուկտ. Վահան Թուրքիկեան

Վեր. Դուկտ. Վահան Թուրքիկեան
 Գործադիր Տնօրէն

New Search for the Cause

Supporting the AMAA has never been easier! You can now earn money for AMAA while searching the Internet or making online purchases! Simply add Goodsearch.com as your homepage and begin searching for AMAA.

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Armenian Missionary Association of America – AMAA as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

Salpi Cholakian

Salpi was born on March 8, 1967 in Beirut, Lebanon. She was the first child of Barkev & Anjel Messerlian.



Salpi received her elementary and high school education at the Armenian Evangelical Shamlian Tatitigan Secondary School of Nor Marash, in Broudj Hammoud, Lebanon. She continued her higher education at Haigazian University, majoring in Education.

From an early age, Salpi attended Sunday School, was a member of her church's Youth and Christian Endeavor organizations, sang in the choir and was active in various athletic activities.

Salpi served in the offices of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the near East as secretary/bookkeeper and later in the office of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon. In June 1988 she married Rev. Vicken Cholakian. The newly formed family was blessed with two children, Nariné and Norayr.

In 1994, the Cholakians were invited to Athens, Greece to serve as the spiritual leaders of the two Armenian Evangelical churches - Rev. Vicken Cholakian as the pastor and Salpi as the Director of the Armenian Evangelical KG of Kokkinia. As the spouse of a minister, Salpi was involved with her husband's ministry – visitations, organizing family conferences, Sunday school, etc.

After a brief illness Salpi went to be with the Lord on March 27, 2008. The funeral service was held on Thursday, April 3. Many clergy and civic leaders were in attendance, as well as a large congregation. Condolences were offered by clergy from Armenian and Greek churches, as well as the Greek Minister of the Interior. Fellow Armenian Evangelical clergy participated, including Revs. Harout Selimian and Serop Megerdichian from Syria, Rev. Gilbert Leonian from France, and Rev. Mgrditch Karageozian from Beirut. It was surely a difficult service, but yet one in which the Lord's name was lifted up in praise.

In her brief life (she turned 41 while in the hospital) Salpi brought her dedication to the Lord, commitment to the church, and Armenian cultural identity together to serve in an incomparable manner, especially in the Greek-Armenian community over nearly a decade and a half. She was a God-given helpmeet fit for her husband, and a wise mother to her teenage daughter and pre-teen son. ☐

Henry Derian

Henry Derian was born in Buffalo, NY, on July 22, 1916, to Kayios & Virginia Derian, who provided a Christian home and an environment that was conducive for the spiritual development of their four children: Vahe, Henry, Herant and Dirouhi.

The Derian family moved to Los Angeles, CA, when Henry was six-years old. After completing high school, he attended a night school to study carpentry. Later, his father, who was a master carpenter, taught the intricacies of his trade to his three sons and persuaded them to join him in the business. Henry, who had an inquisitive mind, learned how to remodel houses, repair cars and radios by reading manuals borrowed from the local library.

In 1957, Henry met and married Anahis Jambazian, who had emigrated from the Middle East, and was employed as a registered nurse. Anahis showed a keen interest in her husband's construction business, lent him her full support and advised him to delve into real estate transactions. The Lord richly blessed their business and granted them unprecedented success, beyond their expectation.

Henry adopted his wife's niece and nephew, Nancy and Paul Jambazian, when they were young toddlers, surrounded them with his fatherly love, provided for all their needs, and raised them to be Christians and responsible citizens. He constantly advised them to embrace his faith, as well as his moral and ethical values.

Henry had a cheerful disposition and enjoyed all outdoor activities. When he was bedridden for seven years due to Parkinson's disease, he retained a positive attitude.

Henry was a very generous person. Not a single streak of selfishness was ever detected in him. He and his wife regularly made financial contributions to Armenian religious, educational and cultural organizations. Besides supporting their home church, the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, where they built a fellowship hall, they made substantial donations to Haigazian University, Camp Arev, the Union of Marash Armenians, the Merdinian Evangelical School and the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Henry departed this world for heaven on Sept. 6, 2007. A gravesite service was conducted by Revs. Berdj Djambazian and Kevork Terian at the Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, CA. This outstanding benefactor and devout Christian is sorely missed but fondly remembered. □



Beatrice Kougasian

Beatrice "Betty" (Asadorian) Kougasian, 81, of Cranston, RI died on Saturday, April 5, 2008 after an extended illness. She and her husband Peter Kougasian celebrated their 57th anniversary in September, 2007.

Born in Providence on Flag Day, 1926, she was the daughter of the late Nushan and Victoria (Boyajian) Asadorian. She attended Providence schools, graduating summa cum laude from Classical High School in 1943. She went on to Pembroke College of Brown University, where she was awarded a B.A., cum laude, in 1947. Upon graduation she worked in the Brown University placement office until her marriage.

She was active in alumni and community affairs. She was past president of the Pembroke class of 1947. She was a member and past president of the Pembroke College Club of Providence and, for the fiftieth reunion, elected president of the combined 1947 graduating classes of Brown University and Pembroke College. In the early 1960s, she served on the Board of Directors of the YWCA.

Mrs. Kougasian loved music. She studied the violin with Dr. Hugo Norden for more than ten years, and later, briefly, with Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. She was a member of the orchestras at Classical and at Brown, where she served as Concertmistress. She served as an instructor with the RI Young People's Symphony and taught violin in the Pawtucket A-Tempo Program. For over 30 years, she taught violin at both Moses Brown and Wheeler Schools.

Mrs. Kougasian attended the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church and was also a member of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, both of Providence.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Kougasian is survived by her children, Joan (Jakki) Horan and her husband Neal Horan of Chelmsford, MA, and Peter Mark Kougasian, Esq. and his wife, Elizabeth Edds Kougasian of Pelham Manor, NY; and four grandchildren, Victoria, Cordelia, and Margaret Horan and Alexander Kougasian. She is also survived by her sister Florence Dulgarian (Mrs. Grant Dulgarian) and two nephews, Grant Dale and Clifford C. Dulgarian.

The funeral and burial were private. A Memorial Service for family and friends in celebration of Mrs. Kougasian's life was held on Saturday, April 19th at the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church of Providence, RI. □



Henry Manoogian

Henry "Hank" Manoogian 89, of Amherst, NH died Jan. 31, 2008 at his home. He was born in Symara, Russia on Aug. 27, 1918 and immigrated with his family to Salem, NH the following year.

He earned his B.S. Degree in electrical engineering from Northeastern University. At the start of WW II, he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany in General Patton's division. Upon returning to the United States, he worked for the Naval Air Development Center in Boston and was transferred to their branch in Johnsville, PA where he was Program Director for the design and development of relay transmitters for aircraft early warning applications. While in Johnsville, he was recruited by Sanders Associates, Nashua, NH, where he worked until his retirement in 1982.

Mr. Manoogian has been a member of the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church in Salem, NH, as well as to several organizations. He enjoyed vacationing with his family at Lake Winnisquam in the summer and Bonita Springs, FL in the winter. Beyond his family, his passion in life was golf.

Family members include his wife of 60 years, Marion (Garoian) Manoogian of Amherst; five daughters and two sons-in-law, Candice and David Arleo of Northport, NY; Debra Manoogian of Los Angeles, CA; Holly Manoogian of Brookfield, NH; Wendy and Jules Brayman of Amherst, NH; MaryAnn Manoogian of Concord, NH; a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Cynthia Manoogian of Amherst, NH; nine grandchildren, Peter, Arleo, Sarah Gosselin, Alex Manoogian, Tyler Manoogian, Leah Brayman, Rachel Brayman, Melanie Brayman, Jackson Brayman, and Mikael Manoogian; one great-grandchild, Emily Gosselin; a sister, Agnes David of Burlington, MA; a sister-in-law, Queenie Holmberg of Canton, MA; and two nieces and two nephews. Funeral services were held on at the Ararat Armenian Cong'l Church of Salem, NH. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

* **Dikran Balian** - Watertown, MA
Siranoush Konyalian - Granada Hills, CA
Ed Simourian - Boston, MA

* *Memorials designated for AMAA*



Armenian Missionary Association of America

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And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations... -Matthew 24:14



AMAA'S New Website

Visit www.amaa.org and you will get a pleasant surprise! AMAA now has an easy-to-navigate, very extensive website. On the website, you will discover information on our programs, special projects, current events, and view our Annual Report with the financial statements. You can view back issues of AMAA News, read the Armenian version of the Our Daily Bread devotionals, or obtain contact information for many ministries from our Directory. You can even make donations on-line, sponsor a child, or purchase from our bookstore. It is all there and continually being updated. Be sure to check the site often. While you're there, why don't you test the site with an on-line contribution? It is safe and very quick and easy to use, saving you time and postage!

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Welcome

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We are excited to have this

opportunity to share with you the blessing God has been to our organization and, in turn, the abundant blessings we have been able to pour out to others, enriching their lives both spiritually and physically.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA) is committed to excellence in all we do, because we do it for our Lord. People willing to sacrifice their time and financial resources make it possible. With God's blessing and direction, we have become a strong, effective organization; understanding and reaching our communities around the world with Christian service relevant to our times.

The AMAA is grateful to God for His manifold blessings: The privilege of being part of a one-of-a-kind, well-established Armenian missionary organization; to be associated with and represent the Armenian Evangelical Church and its local congregations; and to experience God's love and grace expressed in action on the mission field. The AMAA is a vital work for the Armenian evangelical community.

Be assured that whatever part you play within the AMAA, whether in time or contributions, you are vital to our organization for accomplishing the work.

News & Events



Shoghig Choir of Armavir, Armenia



90th Anniversary Trip to Armenia



Internship Program in Armenia

Mission and Service Ministries Supporting 140 Projects in 22 Countries

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